

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 SCA-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01 RSR-01 /085 W

----- 102346

R 170500 Z MAY 73

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0096

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E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, CH

SUBJECT: PRC HANDLING OF AP AND UPI VISAS

REFERENCE: ROMBERG MESSAGE MAY 16

1. PRC APPARENTLY CHANGED ITS MIND IN EARLY MAY ABOUT ISSUING VISAS TO AP AND UPI AND THEN FAILED TO MAKE THIS CLEAR. AS JENKINS BOARDING PLANE FOR RETURN TO PEKING, HAN HSU SAID, ALMOST IN PASSING, THAT HE THOUGHT PRC HAD CHANGED MIND AGAIN RE AP AND UPI COVERAGE. NODDING TOWARD SULLIVAN, JENKINS SAID " YOU' LL BE IN TOUCH WITH OUR PEOPLE?" HAN INDICATED THEY WOULD BE.

2. THE FINAL PRC LINE BECAME CLEAR TO US INDIRECTLY ON MAY 14, THE DAY OF BRUCE ARRIVAL. INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL MA YU- CHEN TOLD NEWSMEN ALREADY IN PEKING THAT PRC WAS NOT ISSUING VISAS TO ANY NEWSMEN WHO WANTED TO ENTER COUNTRY JUST TO COVER BRUCE ARRIVAL. ANY CORRESPONDENTS ALREADY IN PEKING FOR OTHER REASONS WELCOME TO COVER EVENT, HOWEVER.

3. IN RETROSPECT THIS WAS CHINESE WAY OF LIMITING NUMBER OF NEWSMEN, AVOIDING APPEARANCE OF GIVING BRUCE ARRIVAL
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ANY SPECIAL PRESS TREATMENT, AND AT SAME TIME MAKING SURE

EVENT GOT COVERED. PRC WAS AT FIRST NEGATIVE, LATER ASSENTED
TO AP AND UPI VISAS, REVERSED AGAIN, EVIDENTLY FAILED TO CLARIFY
DEFINITIVELY, PERHAPS OUT OF EMBARRASSMENT. USLO WAS
INQUIRING ABOUT CASE RIGHT UP TO LAST DAY.
BRUCE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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